

## B. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 (Currently Amended). A method [system] for cross-trading commodities and the like among a plurality of exchanges comprising:

providing a computer;

establishing a communications link between the computer and the Internet;

providing a database, accessible by the computer, containing a plurality of user files wherein each of the plurality of user files corresponds to a specified user of the system and further containing exchange permissions corresponding to a plurality of exchanges to which the specified user may access;

providing a database, accessible by the computer, containing a plurality of indications wherein each of the plurality of indications contains information corresponding to open bids or offers for commodities and the indications are organized according to the commodities to which they correspond;

providing at least one computerized exchange for transacting specified commodities executing on the computer accessible by selected users having proper exchange permissions for each exchange; and

presenting [a presentation of] indications transmitted from the computer to a user of the system over the communications link, [software executing on the computer for] querying the user database to retrieve exchange permissions from a user file corresponding to the user, retrieving indications from the indication database corresponding to the predetermined commodities within the exchanges to which the user has been determined to have access, generating a presentation of the retrieved indications, and transmitting the presentation to the user over the communications link.

2 (Currently Amended). The method [system] of claim 1 further comprising displaying [wherein] said specified commodities associated with an exchange [are viewed] exclusively by users having exchange permissions corresponding to the exchange.

3 (Currently Amended). The method [system] of claim 2 further comprising granting commodity-sharing privileges [granted] between at least two exchanges

permitting at least one of the exchanges access to at least one commodity associated with the exchanges.

4 (Currently Amended). The method [system] of claim 1 further comprising in [wherein] each of said plurality of user files corresponding [further contains] a plurality of transaction parameters [corresponding] to one or more indications associated with said user file, said transaction parameters governing the presentation and acceptance of indications associated therewith; and the method further comprising [software executing on said computer for] querying user files in said user database corresponding to each of said retrieved indications to determine transaction parameters associated with each of said retrieved indications, and generating said presentation of said retrieved indications in accordance with said determined transaction parameters.

5 (Currently Amended). The method [system] of claim 4 further comprising [wherein] said transaction parameters enabling [enable] a submitter of an indication to remain anonymous to specific users of the system that have been predetermined by the submitter.

6 (Currently Amended). The method [system] of claim 4 further comprising [wherein] said transaction parameters enabling [enable] a submitter of an indication to reveal contact information to specific users of the system that have been predetermined by the submitter.

7 (Currently Amended). The method [system] of claim 4 further comprising [wherein] said transaction parameters permitting [permit] a submitter of an indication to grant specific users preferred status over other users of the system with respect to actions concerning indications submitted by the submitter.

8 (Currently Amended). The method [system] of claim 1 further comprising: requesting [a request] to register submitted by the user to said computer over said communications link; [software executing on said computer for] transmitting a registration form to the user over said communications link in response to said request, submitting a completed registration form [from submitted] by the user to said computer over said communications link; and[, software executing on said computer for] receiving

said completed registration form, creating a user file based on said completed registration form, and storing said user file in said user database.

9 (Currently Amended). The method [system] of claim 8 further comprising the user determining [wherein] said transaction parameters [are determined by the user] and submitting [submitted] to the computer [by the user] within said completed registration form and further comprising [software executing on said computer for] retrieving transaction parameters submitted within said completed registration form and storing said transaction parameters in said user file corresponding to the user.

10 (Currently Amended). The method [system] of claim 1 further comprising; the user submitting a completed indication submission form [submitted by the user] to said computer over said communications link; and[, software executing on said computer for] transmitting an indication submission form to the user over said communications link, receiving said completed indication submission form submitted by the user, creating a new indication based on said completed indication submission form, associating said new indication with a user file corresponding to said user, and storing said new indication in said indication database.

11 (Currently Amended). The method [system] of claim 10 further comprising the user determining [wherein] said transaction parameters [are determined by the user] and submitted to the computer by the user within said completed indication submission form; and further comprising [software executing on said computer for] retrieving transaction parameters submitted within said completed indication submission form and storing said transaction parameters in a user file corresponding to the user.

12 (Currently Amended). The method [system] of claim 1 further comprising [software executing on said computer for] operating and maintaining an interactive website to facilitate interaction between the user and said computer.

13-43 (Withdrawn).

44 (Previously Presented). A system for cross-trading commodities and the like among a plurality of exchanges comprising:

a computer;

a communications link between the computer and the Internet;

a database, accessible by the computer, containing a plurality of user files wherein each of the plurality of user files corresponds to a specified user of the system and further containing exchange permissions corresponding to a plurality of exchanges to which the specified user may access;

at least one computerized exchange for transacting specified commodities executing on the computer accessible by selected users having proper exchange permissions for each exchange;

a database, accessible by the computer, containing a plurality of indications wherein each of the plurality of indications contains information corresponding to open bids or offers for commodities and the indications are organized according to the commodities to which they correspond; and

software executing on the computer for querying the user database to retrieve exchange permissions from a user file corresponding to the user; retrieving indications from the indication database corresponding to predetermined commodities within the exchanges to which the user has been determined to have access, generating a presentation of the retrieved indications, transmitting the presentation to the user over the communications link, and displaying the presentation of the retrieved indications corresponding to the commodities within the exchanges to which the user has been determined to have access.

45 (Previously Presented). The system of claim 44 wherein the specified commodities associated with an exchange are viewed exclusively by users having exchange permissions corresponding to the exchange.

46 (Previously Presented). The system of claim 45 further comprising commodity-sharing privileges granted between at least two exchanges permitting at least one of the exchanges access to at least one commodity associated with the exchanges.

47 (Previously Presented). The system of claim 44 wherein each of the plurality of user files further contains a plurality of transaction parameters corresponding to one or more indications associated with the user file, the transaction parameters governing the presentation and acceptance of indications associated therewith and the

system further comprising software executing on the computer for querying user files in the user database corresponding to each of the retrieved indications to determine transaction parameters associated with each of the retrieved indications, and generating the presentation of the retrieved indications in accordance with the determined transaction parameters.

48 (Previously Presented). The system of claim 47 wherein the transaction parameters enable a submitter of an indication to remain anonymous to specific users of the system that have been predetermined by the submitter.

49 (Previously Presented). The system of claim 44 wherein the transaction parameters enable a submitter of an indication to reveal contact information to specific users of the system that have been predetermined by the submitter.

50-55 (Withdrawn).

56 (Newly Added). The method of claim 1 further permitting users to post and view bids and offers and negotiate and consummate transactions on commodities form one of more exchanges on a display.

57 (Newly Added). The system of claim 44 further comprising a display for users that permits users to post and view bids and offers and negotiate and consummate transactions on commodities form one of more exchanges.